

ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

.....MINUTES.....

....OF THE....

TWENTY-FIRST ANNUAL SESSION

....OF THE....

CEDAR BLUFF
Baptist Association

....HELD WITH....

... MOUNT BETHEL CHURCH, ...

SEPTEMBER 20, 21 AND 22, 1895.

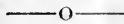
OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION:

ELDER J. N. WEBB, : : : : : MODERATOR.
JOHN C. HIGH, : : : : : CLERK.

COLLINSVILLE, ALA.
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1895.



... ORDER OF BUSINESS. ...



- 1 Read letters from the churches.
- 2 Receptions of new churches.
- 3 Election of officers.
- 4 Invite visiting ministers of our faith and order.
- 5 Call for correspondence.
- 6 Appointment of the following committees, to wit:
 - 1 On Divine Service.
 - 2 On Finance.
 - 3 On Missions.
 - 4 On Education.
 - 5 On Sabbath Schools.
 - 6 On State of Religion.
 - 7 On Religious Literature.
 - 8 On Deceased Ministers.
 - 9 On Delegates to Conventions.
 - 10 On Preaching Appointments for next session.
- 7 Report of committees.
- 8 General business.
- 9 Appoint correspondence.
- 10 Appoint time and place of next meeting.
- 11 Adjournment.

.... MINUTES....

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MOUNT BETHEL CHURCH, September 20th, 1895.

The Cedar Bluff Baptist Association met with Mount Bethel church on Friday, September 20th, 1895.

The Introductory sermon was preached by Eld V A Bell. Text, Acts 2nd chapter, 1st and 37 to 41 verses inclusive.

EVENING SESSION, September 20th.

At 2 o'clock the Association was opened by Moderator reading 17th chapter of John. Prayer by Brother J A C Sims. The churches were called when the following delegates were enrolled:

BETHLEHEM—J A C Sims and C P Copeland.

CEDAR BLUFF—J S Watt and I A Ellis.

DAMARIS—D A Tucker, A B Griffith and J M Sutherland.

FAIRILL—J F Preskitt, J L Tucker and W A Chandler.

FAIR HEAVEN—E A Mormon, J I Watkins.

GRAVEL SPRINGS—John Webb, Jesse Bruster.

LEESBURG—Not represented.

MILL CREEK—T B Miller, G M Ball, J C High.

MT BETHEL—J N Webb, H T Leath, W D Estes, D A Pledger, W L Little, G N Elam, J A Tallent, L Rinehart, J T Pledger, T W Rinehart.

PLEASANT VALLEY—G W Parker, J P Myrick.

ROCK HILL—J B Washam, J W Bagly.

SHADY GROVE—John Shepherd.

ROUND MOUNTAIN—J M Chancellor, R G Harton.

UNION—W E Sewel.

UNITY—Lawrence Wade, J N Walker.

YELLOW CREEK—J F Blivens, J W Starlings, S J Williams.

The election of officers resulted in electing Eld J N Webb, Moderator and J C High, Clerk.

A call was made for the reception of new churches and Round Mountain church presented a letter. On motion said church was received.

The Association recognized Brethren J H Glazner, and — Johnson from the Chattooga Association, and Brother Moore from the Memphis Association. The following committees were then appointed:

ON DIVINE SERVICE—J T Pledger, T M Rinehart, J Shepherd, T B Miller and A B Griffith.

ON DECEASED MINISTERS—Eld V A Bell, J F Preskitt, L Rinehart.

ON DELEGATES TO THE CONVENTIONS—J W Starling, Jessie Bruster and G W Barker.

ON HOSPITALITY—W D Estes, W L Little, J T Pledger, T W Rinehart.

ON PREACHING APPOINTMENTS, for next session—J M Chancellor, John Webb and J A Ellis.

ON FINANCE—G M Ball, W D Estes and N C Walker.

Adjourned to meet at 8:30 o'clock tomorrow morning.

MORNING SESSION, September 21st.

At 8:30 o'clock the Moderator opened the Association by reading 1st Psalm. Prayer by Bro T B Milller.

An opportunity was given for the recognition of visiting brethren when Brother A E Burns was recognized in his official capacity representing the State Board of Missions and the Alabama Baptist.

Report on deceased ministers read and adopted.

On motion the regular order of business was suspended and the association joined in prayer in behalf of the family of Bro L W Raynes, deceased, and the surviving ministers of the association.

On motion the association adjourned at 11 o'clock for preaching.

Committee on preaching appointments made their report which was adopted as read.

Report on literature read and adopted.

Report on education read and adopted.

On motion Bro John L Ray was admitted to the floor to be heard on the report.

EVENING SESSION, 1:30 o'clock.

On motion Bro L Wade and Bro N C Walker were allowed to represent Unity church which at that time had failed to present her letter to the association.

Report on temperance read and adopted.

The association recognized Bro Moon as a correspondent from Cherokee county association.

Report on delegates to the conventions read and adopted.

Delegates to the Southern Baptist convention, Eld V A Bell, O A Gardner alternate.

To the State Convention Bro J A C Sims, D A Pledger alternate.

The regular order of business was suspended to select the time and place of holding the next meeting of the Association, which will be Friday before the 4th Sunday in September, 1896, and to be held with Union church.

It was ordered that the subject of missions be taken up at 10 o'clock and that Bro. Burns have the privilege of the hour.

On motion the subject of the Sabbath Schools was postponed till 9 o'clock tomorrow morning.

Report on state of religion read and adopted. Adjourned to meet at 8:30.

MORNING SESSION, September 22nd.

At 9 o'clock the association was opened by the Moderator reading 133 Psalm.

Minutes of yesterday read and adopted.

Report on Sabbath Schools read and adopted.

Report on Mission read and adopted.

Adjourned until 2 o'clock.

(Public collection \$12 00.)

EVENING SESSION.

At 2 o'clock the body was called to order and the committee on finance reported which was adopted.

The Moderator appointed standing committees as follows: On Missions, H T Leath; on Education, J S Watt; on Sabbath Schools, J A C Sims; on Temperance, J C High.

The executive committee was retained for another year, which was as follows: A B Griffith, G M Ball, R S Dean and W F Wilder.

Adjourned to meet with Union church Friday before the 4th Sabbath in September, 1896.

JAMES N WEBB, Moderator.

J C HIGH, Clerk.

SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

Your committee on Sabbath Schools submit the following report: This being one of the chief questions in our associations and conventions one might suppose it an easy matter to get up statistics in making such report, but it is very difficult, made so by the churches failing to state in their letters to the association whether or not they have a Sunday School. In our association from 16 churches we have eight Sabbath Schools reported. This perhaps is about an average of the state, and of the Southern Baptist Convention. We heartily recommend the Sunday School Literature published at Nashville, Tenn., under the auspices of the Southern Baptist Convention. We would call the attention of the brethren of this association to the fact that we have a Sabbath School Convention in the bounds of this association and as some of them do not seem to know it, or at least they do not attend, we would like to know whether the brethren of this association think it expedient to try longer to keep up a Sunday School Convention in its bounds? We urge the churches of this association to take a deeper interest in the Sunday School work. Let those that have them keep them alive, and prosperous, for our church members and our children need to be taught the word of God which is able to make them wise unto salvation. Let those churches that have no Sabbath Schools organize one at the earliest day possible for no church can hope to be very prosperous without a Sabbath School, especially is this true of a church that has preaching but once a month.

Respectfully submitted, H T LEATH.

STATE OF RELIGION.

Your committee beg to make the following report: We are glad to report some of our churches are sustaining prayer meetings, while others we are sorry to note are neglecting this great work, and we encourage our brethren to carry this great work on; it being the key that calls fourth God's blessings. Also glad to note that a majority of our churches are keeping up their Sabbath Schools, and we insist on those churches that are neglecting this work to begin at once. It being one of the ways of instilling gospel truths in the minds of the young as well as the old. We are glad to learn that some of our churches have had good revivals. We are sorry to note that some have not had the out-pouring of God's spirit that others have had.

Respectfully submitted, J A C SIMS.

DECEASED MINISTERS.

Your committee on Deceased Ministers beg leave to report with sadness, the death of our beloved brother L. W. Raynes. A star shines brightest on a clear night just before the dawning of the morning. So our beloved brother was a bright star among the constellations of the ministers of God. His christian life shown brightest the last few weeks of his stay with us. He now sleeps that blessed sleep, from which none ever wake to weep. The rays of his short, brilliant ministerial life, will be thrown back to light the pathway of many from earth to heaven. We bow with humble submission to the will of our Heavenly Father. Respectfully submitted,

V. A. BELL.

PREACHING APPOINTMENT.

We, your committee beg to submit the following report: Introductory sermon by H. T. Leath; alternate, O. A. Gardner; Missionary sermon, V. A. Bell; alternate, J. N. Webb.

Respectfully submitted,

J. M. CHANCELLOR.

MISSIONS.

The subject of missions is one of great importance. What does the word missions mean? It is from the Latin *missio* from *mitto* to send. A sending or being sent, usually the latter, being sent or delegated by authority with certain powers for transacting business, commission. Jesus Christ was sent on a mission into the world. "God sent not his son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved." Then Jesus was sent on a mission of Salvation; sent with authority to save people from their sins. John was a missionary sent of God. "The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the son of God, as it is written in prophets, behold I send my messenger before thy face which shall prepare thy way before thee." John was a Baptist, and being both a baptist and a missionary therefore he was a Missionary Baptist. We are glad of our origin. The early christians and in fact all true christians are missionaries. Jesus says "As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world." If it was the mission of Jesus to seek and to save that which was lost, so it is the mission of his people to seek in the same way to save the lost. Jesus said again "All power is given me in heaven and on earth, go ye therefore, and teach all nations baptizing in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and lo I am with you even to the end of the world." Then we are commanded to go and preach the gospel by him who has all power in heaven and on earth, and the gospel is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth. May the Lord help us to carry the gospel to the uttermost parts of the earth.

Respectfully submitted,

J. N. WEBB.

RELIGIOUS LITERATURE.

Your committee beg to make the following report: First of all we would recommend the prayful and daily study of the Bible; second we would recommend the Southern Baptist series for the Sunday schools and would recommend that every one read the Alabama Baptist, the Baptist Helper and the Baptist Standard.

Respectfully submitted,

D. A. PLEDGER.

DELEGATES TO CONVENTIONS.

We recommend as delegates to the Southern Baptist Convention: V. A. Bell; alternate O. A. Gardner. To the State Convention: J. A. C. Sims, alternate D. A. Pledger.

Respectfully submitted,

J. W. STARLING.

TEMPERANCE.

So much has been said and written on this subject that your committee does think it necessary to make a lengthy report. It is an admitted fact that the liquor traffic has a great influence for evil. Some times the lawmaking power is under its control, some times the judge on the bench, the jury in the court room are under its grasp. How came this law making power under its control? Who elected those legislators? Who elected this judge that sits on the bench and ponders to the whiskey ring? Your committee charges members of the church with being to a great extent, responsible for this legislation which favors the saloons. There is also a very great responsibility upon the preachers of this country. They are watchmen on the walls. When they see the sword coming they must sound the alarm. Occasionally the sin of drunkenness is held up, but not a word about the drunkard maker. The liquor traffic is today one of the heaviest clogs upon progress and the deepest disgrace of the nineteenth century.

Respectfully submitted,

J. C. HIGH.

EDUCATION.

The importance of this subject like many other questions of great weight, seems to be heeded only during its discussions or while we are engrossed and delighted with some theme that absorbs our entire admiration. The divine injunction to get wisdom seems to have fallen upon inattentive ears, although the facilities for getting an education upon almost any subject is far greater now than at any prior date of the history of this nation. There are no great question of weight and important that present themselves for our consideration, that does not call for a more thorough education. The science of medicine, of law, of agriculture and many other questions seem to have theirs, but they stop far short of that degree of perfection to which they might attain. The subject of Political Economy (not general politics) is now one of the most importance questions of the day. So important that being ignorant of its value will soon drive this generation of people into foreign lands and our fair land will become occupied by another people. This will at once be proven if we will only stop and think of the hords of foreigners coming to this government. If we would control this foreign population, most of whom know nothing of the word of God, we must meet them with knowledge, with wisdom and the Bible. As light and knowledge is disseminated a higher education will become necessary for all young men who are training for the ministry, and no man can long expect to retain control of his audience who does not fully realize the importance of a thorough knowledge of his calling. We feel that the Baptist of Alabama have great cause to be proud of the Howard and Judson both of which are being fostered by the Baptist State Convention.

Respectfully submitted,

J. S. WATT.

FINANCE.

J. C. High in account with the Cedar Bluff Association:

Received Foreign Missions.....	\$40 30
" Home "	12 72
" State "	3 55
" Ministerial Education.....	5 50
" Public Collection.....	12 05
" Minutes.....	14 32
Total.....	<u>\$88 44</u>

DISBURSEMENTS.

Foreign Missions To Brother Burns.....	\$40 30
Home " " " "	12 72
State " " " "	3 55
Ministerial Educational " "	5 50
Public Collection " "	12 05
Minutes.....	14 32
Total.....	<u>\$88 44</u>

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REQUEST—The churches will please give the enrollment and average attendance of their Sabbath Schools. Also state in your letters how you want the money that you send to the association divided among the different boards, so that I may be able make out the Financial Exhibit of all the churches. CLERK.

DECLARATION OF FAITH AND PRACTICE.

ARTICLE I. We believe that there are three that bear record in Heaven: The Father, Word and Holy Ghost; and that these three are one, the only living and true God, the Creator and Preserver of all men of the Universe.

II. We believe the Word was made flesh in the person of the man Christ Jesus, who is God over all, and blessed evermore.

III. That all scriptures as contained in the Holy Bible is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for correction, for reproof, instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

IV. That the law and testimony as set forth in the Scriptures is the only rule of faith and practice to Christians in their spiritual concerns, and in their conduct as individuals and as members of the churches.

V. That Adam, the natural head and representative of all mankind, fell from his state of original purity, and that by his disobedience all his posterity are made sinners.

VI. That by the obedience of Christ alone sinners are restored to the favor of God, and through His unmerited mercy receive regeneration, pardon, justification, sanctification and glorification.

VII. That those blessings are communicated by that Holy Ghost sent down from Heaven, so that those who are saved are saved by grace, through faith, and that not of themselves; not of work, lest, any man should boast; not by words of righteousness which they have done, but by the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Ghost.

VIII. That God works all things after the counsel of His own will; foreknown unto Him are all His works from the beginning, and that of course, all that the Father hath given to Christ shall come to Him, and that He will raise them up at the last day, so that His sheep will hear, His voice shall never perish become dead to the world and to sin, be made alive to God and when He who is their life shall come, appear with Him in glory.

IX. We believe that believers should obey the commandments of Christ, and maintain good work for necessary uses.

X That sinners of the vilest character may obtain salvation through Christ without money and without price.

XI. That there will be a resurrection of the dead and a general judgment, according to the decision of which the wicked shall go away into everlasting punishment, and the righteous to life eternal.

XII. That God has instituted a church on earth, existing in distinct bodies, the only scriptural members of which are the faithful in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, who are immersed in water in the name of the Father, of the Son and of the Holy Ghost, and who have given themselves to the Lord and to one another in the church relation by the will of God their voluntary consent.

XIII. That each church of Jesus Christ is independent of all authority but that of her head, and that she has under Him the exclusive power of managing all her concerns of judging of the qualifications of her own members for the offices they are to fill, and of choosing her own officers in conformity with the direction of the Word of God.

XIV. That the officers of the churches are pastors are deacons only.

XV. That scriptural baptism is an ordinance of the Gospel and consists in immersing the body of a disciple of the Lord Jesus in water upon a profession of his faith in Christ.

XVI. That the Lord's supper is a standing ordinance in the Church of Christ, consisting in a believing participation of bread and wine, to be observed in commemoration of the suffering and death of Christ, and to show forth His death until He comes the second time.

STATISTICS OF CEDAR BLUFF ASSOCIATION, 1895.

CHURCHES.	COUNTY.	PASTORS.	CLERKS.	CLERK'S POST OFFICES.	Members last reported.	Increase	Decrease	Present Membership.	Sunday School Teachers.	Pupils	Preaching Sabbath.
Bethlehem	Cherokee	J B Appleton.	L Copeland.	Sandrock	30	6	1	33	3	35	1
Cedar Bluff	"	J W Pullen.	I A Ellis.	Cedar Bluff	76	1	1	76	....	45	1
Damaris	"	J N Webb.	G W Bishop.	Lawrence	80	3	1	79	....	63	2
Farill	"	J R Ramsey.	J C Nixon.	Farill	44	1	3	44	3	....	3
Gravil Springs.	"	H T Leath.	R S Dean.	Loop	23	1	1	22	....	....	3
Fair Heaven	"	V A Bell.	J A Chandler.	Farill	54	1	1	48	....	....	4
Leesburg	"	<i>last reported</i>	<i>W L Little.</i>	Broomtown	153	3	10	136	6	85	4
Mt. Bethel	"	J N Webb.	W H Helms.	Cedar Springs	48	6	1	48	6	53	3
Mill Creek	"	V A Bell.	J P Myrick.	Jamestown	29	5	1	33	....	....	2
Pleasant Valley	"	H T Leath.	J A Bagley.	Broomtown	41	1	2	42	....	35	2
Rock Hill	"	J H Glazener.	J M Chancellor.	Round Mount'n	75	5	2	29	....	....	1
Round Mount'n	"	V A Bell.	J Thornton.	Maple Grove	55	2	4	92	....	....	3
Shady Grove	"	W T Whildow.	J R. McCalm.	Hurley	123	8	1	125	3	....	1
Unity	"	W A Roberts.	T L Wagner.	Ball Play	58	6	1	58	....	....	4
Union	"	Thomas Blair.		Bristow	58	6	1	58	3
Yellow Creek	"	J T Bartlett.			758	13	20	914	21	316	
				Total	758	13	20	914	21	316	

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SUNDAY SCHOOL CONVENTION.

FARILL, ALA., Aug. 3d, 1895

The Cedar Bluff Baptist Sunday School Convention .. pursuant to the call of the Executive Committee with the First Baptist Church of Farill on above date. Introductory sermon by Eld. J. N. Webb. Text: Romans 1st chapter. Adjourned until in the afternoon.

The Convention was called to order at 2 o'clock by the Moderator reading the 19th Psalm. Prayer was offered by Bro. Ramsey. The election of officers resulted in electing T B Miller, Moderator, and D O Preskitt, Secretary. On motion the regular order of business was suspended until 7:30 o'clock to-night and the general business of the Convention taken up. On motion the present Executive Committee was retained for another year. On motion the Executive Committee was instructed to call the next Convention together so as to embrace the first fifth Sunday after February, 1896. On motion Bro J N Webb was added to the Executive Committee and D O Preskitt was retained corresponding secretary of the Convention. Adjourned to meet at 7:30 o'clock.

Convention met Sunday, August 4th, at 9 o'clock a. m. and was called to order by the Moderator. Bro T B Miller read the 19th Psalm after which prayer was offered by Bro H T Leath. The regular program was taken up: First subject for discussion was: Are societies in churches according to God's word. Bro H T Leath opened the discussion followed by Bro L W Raynes. On motion the subject on discussion was passed and the next subject on the program was taken; subject being, "What is Gospel Temperance?" The discussion was opened by Bro J N Webb. No other speeches on this subject the Convention adjourned until 1:30 o'clock p. m. Convention met as adjournment and was called to order by the Moderator. After singing prayer was offered by Bro Thos Rineheart. On motion the subject on discussion was passed and the next subject on program was taken up, "The duty to maintain prayer meeting and Sunday School in every church." V A Bell, the speaker appointed to discuss this subject, being absent a motion was made and carried to pass this subject and take up the next. Subject, "What are the evidences of a true christian." Discussion was opened by Bro J R Ramsey followed by Bro Leath. On motion the speakers who were going to discuss the remaining subjects were limited to speak not over ten minutes. The next was "How to make the Sunday School more attractive." Bros J C High, J F Preskitt, J N Webb, W H Johnson, L W Raynes and J R Ramsey discussed the subject. On motion the convention adjourned.

D. O. PRESKITT, Sec.

T. B. MILLER, Mod.

Executive Committee of the Cedar Bluff Baptist Sunday School Convention: W. H. Johnson, chairman; W. D. Estes, J. N. Webb and J. C. High.



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